

DPRK leader Kim Jong Un sends greetings to Cuban counterpart

KCNA

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, sent a congratulatory message to Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Republic of Cuba, on April 20.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un in the message offered sincere comradely greetings and warm congratulations to the first secretary on his birthday.

Expressing pleasure over the fact that the Communist Party of Cuba has firmly defended the gains of socialism and waged a bold struggle for implementing the decisions of its Eighth Congress, while smashing the heinous anti-Cuba moves of the hostile forces by firmly rallying all the Cuban people under the energetic leadership of the first secretary, he extended full support and solidarity to it.

He noted that it is the unshakable will of the WPK and the people of the DPRK to further develop

the friendly and cooperative relations between the two parties and the two peoples, firmly forged in the struggle for accomplishing the cause of anti-imperialist independence and the cause of socialism, true to the spirit of the agreement made at the summit in Pyongyang in November 2018.

Heartily wishing the first secretary greater success in his responsible and noble work of leading the party, state and people, he sincerely hoped that he and all his family members would enjoy good health and happiness.

Flower basket sent to Cuban President

KCNA

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, sent a basket of flowers to Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Republic of Cuba, on his birthday.

The congratulatory flower basket bearing the name of the

respected Comrade Kim Jong Un was courteously conveyed by the DPRK ambassador to Cuba to an official of the Cuban Foreign Ministry on April 20.

Written on the ribbons decorating the basket were the letters reading "Warm birthday wishes to Comrade Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Republic of Cuba".

Plans and decisions of WPK just mean practice

By Kang Tok Su

Since they set off on a grand march in the new century of the Juche era under the leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea, the Korean people have continued to experience severe trials and difficulties.

In their advance they have been faced with manifold crises and challenges enormous enough to completely destroy a country or a nation.

They, however, never succumbed but valiantly opened up an era of our-state-first principle with more powerful and civilized features thanks to the plans and decisions of the Workers' Party of Korea, which they regard as the blueprint for their future and the milestone of life and struggle which inspires them to absolutely support, trust and follow the Party in one mind.

Everything WPK planned and decided to do is connected directly with the people's destiny, interests and life and the course of translating them into practice enhances the feeling of kinship between the Party and the people and remarkably consolidates the

single-hearted unity, the greatest national power of Korea.

As the saying goes, a drop of water mirrors the whole universe. The reality of the country can be proved through the people's experience in the year 2021.

Hostile forces' schemes to deprive the DPRK of its sovereignty and rights to existence and development became more violent, recurrent terrible natural disasters swept away a lot of its precious things in a flash and even a worldwide health crisis occurred to seriously threaten the life and safety of the Korean people.

Despite the increasing severe difficulties, there started the construction of apartment buildings for 10 000 families in Pyongyang and the area where there had been President Kim Il Sung's house in the city turned into a modern residential district for working people. And although the situation of the country was very difficult and even a single penny counted, the supply of dairy products to all children of the country at state expense was fixed as the Party's policy, the City of Samjiyon at the foot

of Mt Paektu underwent a sea change as befits an ideal city of people and homes of happiness appeared in the localities which had been afflicted by natural calamities.

This year, too, the WPK held the ground-breaking ceremony for the creation of a large-scale greenhouse farm in Ryonphori in Hamju County, North Hamgyong Province, and that for the construction of apartment houses for 10 000 families in the Hwasong area in Pyongyang as part of the endeavour to provide the people with better living conditions.

The road the Korean people should follow is never smooth, and they might be faced with unprecedented challenges and crises once again.

But there is no change in the people's confidence in victory.

It is the firm determination of all the Koreans to support the plans and decisions of the WPK devotedly as they know the prosperity of the state, their happiness and the bright future of their beloved children lie in translating the plans and decisions of the Party into reality.

First revolutionary armed force of Korean people

By Jong Chol PT

On April 25 1932, a ceremony was held on the tableland at Tuqidian of Xiaoshahe, Antu County of China, to declare the birth of the first revolutionary armed force of the Korean people.

The guerrillas, dressed in their new uniforms and with their guns on their shoulders, lined up in unit order in the clearing on the tableland surrounded by larch trees, and the people from Xiaoshahe and Xinglongcun were buzzing, as they stood in a group at one edge of the clearing.

That day, Commander Kim Il Sung made a historic speech *On the Occasion of Founding the Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army*.

Recollecting the course of founding the Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army and his feelings at the time, President Kim Il Sung wrote in his reminiscences *With the Century*:

"As I proclaimed the founding of the Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army, the soldiers cheered at the top of their voices and the people applauded them enthusiastically".

In his speech he said the Korean nation with their 5 000-year history and brilliant culture had been harshly exploited and oppressed by the Japanese imperialists and called for waging a vigorous armed struggle against Japanese imperialism to achieve the historic cause of national

liberation.

His speech is recorded in *Complete Works of Kim Il Sung Vol. 1*, telling how the first revolutionary armed force of the Korean people was founded.

The officers and men of the Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army, who pledged themselves to dedicate their lives to the sacred cause of national liberation following the President, were all excellent sons and daughters of the Korean people who were tempered and trained in revolutionary organizations formed in the period when the armed struggle was prepared.

Its aim and mission were to overthrow the Japanese imperialists' colonial rule over Korea and achieve national independence and social emancipation of the Korean people.

The founding of the Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army provided a motive force for directly waging and leading the armed struggle, the mainstream of the anti-Japanese national liberation movement of Korea, and enabled the anti-Japanese national liberation struggle to develop onto a higher stage.

The guerrilla army was later reorganized into the Korean People's Revolutionary Army with the build-up of the armed ranks and it finally accomplished the historic cause of national liberation.

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Premier Kim inspects construction site of 10 000 flats in Hwasong area, steel giant



Premier Kim Tok Hun inspects the construction site of 10 000 flats in the Hwasong area.

KCNA

Premier Kim Tok Hun, who is also member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and vice-president of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK, inspected the construction site of 10 000 flats in the Hwasong area and the Chollima Steel Complex.

At the construction site in the Hwasong area, he said that officials and builders should bear in mind the intention of the Party Central Committee that stoutly pushes ahead with the construction of houses in the capital every year and put their wisdom

and efforts into flawlessly building a new modern urban district by making the most of achievements and experience gained in the construction of Songhwa Street.

He pointed to the need to plan and command the project more carefully and powerfully and supply materials for the construction properly and in time as the construction is going on in a three-dimensional way at lightning speed.

At the Chollima Steel Complex he learned about the production in detail and referred to the necessity to technologically perfect the Korean-style iron production method to ensure the proper supply of various kinds

of steel materials and take relevant measures for the supply of raw and other materials and fuel.

The field consultative meetings discussed such issues as of offering scientific and technical guidance for construction to ensure the quality of buildings and speed of construction, encouraging officials to unconditionally implement monthly and quarterly production plans with renewed determination, skillful organizational ability and pushing the work to reduce the production cost of iron and rearrange and reinforce the existing production basis in a planned and far-sighted way and took appropriate steps.

Cabinet holds enlarged meeting

KCNA

An enlarged Cabinet plenary meeting took place on April 20 by way of videoconferencing.

It was presided over by Premier Kim Tok Hun, who is also member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and vice-president of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK.

It was attended by vice-premiers Pak Jong Gun and Jon Hyon Chol and other cabinet members.

The meeting reviewed the implementation of first quarterly national economic plans for thoroughly carrying out the decisions of the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth WPK Central Committee and discussed measures to carry out the national economic plans for the first half of the year.

Pak Jong Gun, vice-premier and chairman of the State Planning Commission, delivered a report.

He said that all sectors and units of the national economy have adopted stricter viewpoint over the implementation of the national economic plans, concentrated efforts on implementing them perfectly and achieved successes in it by relying on the capacity of talents and science and technology.

Analysing and summing up with materials the mistakes and deviations revealed in implementing the first quarterly plan in some units,

he stressed the necessity to wage a more intense struggle against formalism, self-protectionism and other wrong practices manifested in carrying out economic policies.

He noted that thoroughgoing economic planning and command should be done to encourage and amplify the successes and experiences gained in the first quarterly campaign and every possible development potential exploited proactively to fully guarantee the implementation of economic plans for the next quarter.

Speeches were made.

Referring to the experience and lessons drawn in the first quarter, the speakers expressed their resolve to fulfil the responsibility and duty they assume in the effort to glory this year as a year of great revolutionary events to be etched in the history of the country, a year of fresh victory vigorously advancing towards the comprehensive development of Korean-style socialism.

The meeting pointed to the need for all officials to be fully conscious that the national economic plan is the law of the state and work hard to carry out their plans for the first half of the year unconditionally.

It also discussed the issue of continuously directing a great deal of efforts to constantly improving and perfecting Korean-style economic management methods to overcome unsound practices hampering economic growth and properly run the country's economy.

It mainly dealt with the issues of effectively pushing forward the rearrangement and reinforcement as planned and paying primary attention to the development of science and technology, mobilizing all force and means in rice-transplanting, weeding and other farm work by ministries, national agencies, provincial, city and county people's committees and agricultural guidance organs and others, and took appropriate measures to this end.



An enlarged Cabinet plenary meeting takes place on April 20 by way of videoconferencing.

HOME NEWS

KCNA

Kaesong Birthday spread sent to centenarian

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un sent a birthday spread to Yang Thae Hui living in neighbourhood unit No. 6 of Poson-dong, Kaesong, on her 100th birthday.

She had worked devotedly in the textile industry for decades and, after retirement, continued to do work conducive to the economy of the country.

She is encouraging her children and grandchildren to work harder for the benevolent country, saying the socialist system where doctors regularly come to examine people's health and all people care for and help each other is the best.

The whole village congratulated the centenarian's family on the happy event.

Forestry Seminar of forestry sector held

A national seminar of the forestry sector took place on April 19-20 by way of videoconferencing under the sponsorship of the Central Committee of the General Federation of Science and Technology of Korea.

The seminar was aimed at sharing and transferring experiences gained in putting four-season tree planting on a scientific basis and finding out rational solutions.

South Hwanghae Branch school, commuting boat built for village children

South Hwanghae Province has provided students in Ungchon-ri, Pongchon County, with better educational conditions and environment.

The provincial government

set up a new branch school for primary school pupils studying at Ungchon Senior Middle School and built a school boat for those on junior and senior middle school courses, and took necessary measures to solve problems arising in this effort.



Transport service Trolley bus service starts for Kyongru-dong and Songhwa Street

Trolley buses have begun to run through Kyongru-dong and Songhwa Street.

Hwaryok-West Pyongyang trolley buses run through Kyongru-dong, Yongung Street and Hyoksin Street, and Songyo-Songhwa trolley buses depart from the entrance to the Taedonggang Bridge and run through Songhwa Street.



The flag of the Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army used when it was founded.

By Sin Pyol PT

The founding of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army (the then Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army) on April 25 1932 was an event of national-historic significance. It meant that the Korean people came to have their genuine revolutionary army for the first time in

KPRA wins victory in anti-Japanese war

The Korean People's Revolutionary Army (the then Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army) was founded on April 25 1932

history and enabled them to victoriously advance the struggle for national independence and liberation at a new high stage.

Born as a new type of revolutionary armed forces under the guidance of Kim Il Sung, the KPRA positively waged the anti-Japanese armed struggle in the homeland and the vast areas of China's Manchuria with Mt Paektu as the base.

Its enemy was Japanese imperialism which subdued two powers dozens of times

larger than Japan in terms of territory through the wars against China and Russia.

That's why the Japanese imperialists compared the Korean anti-Japanese guerrilla army with "a drop in the ocean".

The anti-Japanese armed struggle waged in the form of guerrilla warfare with neither the backing of the state nor the assistance of a regular army was the continuation of life-and-death battles and arduousness beyond human

imagination.

Although the Korean guerrillas had to wage a long bloody battle with the Japanese army and police in the face of biting cold and icy wind with the temperature going down below 40 degrees centigrade below zero, extreme hunger and fatigue and serious diseases, they never stepped back from the armed struggle for national independence and liberation under the commandship of Kim Il Sung.

They won victory after victory by overpowering the enemy's numerical and technical upper hand with mysterious and adroit tactics,

overcome all those trying ordeals and trials more unbearable than death was a sense of responsibility for the revolution, a high degree of consciousness that Korea would be unable to rise again if they succumbed and an unshakable faith and will to fly the red flag with unbeatable tenacity.

Kim Il Sung wisely organized active offensive operations of the KPRA and kindled the fierce flames of all-people resistance, with the result that the Japanese aggressors styling themselves "leader in the Orient" finally fell and the KPRA emerged victorious in the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle.

lips that legendary generals appeared on Mt Paektu to sweep off Japanese aggressor troops.

Kim Il Sung wisely organized active offensive operations of the KPRA and kindled the fierce flames of all-people resistance, with the result that the Japanese aggressors styling themselves "leader in the Orient" finally fell and the KPRA emerged victorious in the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle.

To turn KPA into powerful revolutionary armed forces

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

Chairman Kim Jong Il had put his heart and soul into strengthening the Korean People's Army since he started his guidance over the revolutionary armed forces at the Seoul Ryu Kyong Su Guards 105th Tank Division on August 25 1960.

The Chairman instituted the original army-buildup programme of imbuing the whole army with the leader's revolutionary ideology for the first time and led the work for implementing the programme, and thus developed the People's Army into an army of the Party.

The high ideological and spiritual traits of the KPA soldiers who fight for the Party and the leader even by laying down their lives without hesitation have been manifested on many occasions: those who fought heroically as they were encircled by the enemy from all sides and blasted themselves shouting hurrah for the leader, the pilot who dashed his burning plane into the sea to safeguard his Supreme Commander and to save the lives and properties of the people even though he heard the order to evacuate for eight times and had enough time to bail out of his plane and the 17 soldiers of Mujae Peak who unhesitatingly threw themselves into the flames and saved the trees bearing revolutionary slogans by covering them with their bodies.

The Chairman went on

endless inspection tours to frontline areas to train the KPA service personnel into a-match-for-a-hundred combatants.

One day in February 2008, he visited a KPA unit and acquainted himself with the performance of the unit's duty, before inspecting the combat training of the soldiers.

Expressing satisfaction over the training of soldiers who performed all movements promptly and accurately according to the officer's command like in a real battle, he said that all soldiers should work hard to perfect their combat preparedness by assiduously running and shooting in the training ground and that the wits and intelligence for annihilating the enemy by dint of clever tactics in the battle field can be attained and developed through strenuous training.

Especially, the Chairman administered original Songun politics in the latter half of the 1990s and continuously went on inspection trips to army units to develop the KPA into invincible armed forces and to reliably safeguard the sovereignty of the nation and security of the people.

The stretch of road over steep cliffs turning 152 sharp bends on Mt Osong, the mountain of Songun, which the Chairman travelled even by pushing his sliding field car, the rugged sea passage to Cho Island and the roads to frontlines still tell of his Songun exploits.

By Han Kwi Hun PT

The Korean People's Army is now ushering in a golden age of its development under the leadership of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un by carrying forward the brilliant anti-Japanese revolutionary tradition.

General Secretary Kim Jong Un clarified modelling the whole army on Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism as the general objective of army building in the beginning of the new century of the Juche era.

He put forward ever-victorious strategy and tactics and the line of developing the revolutionary armed forces into an elite and strong army, kindled the hot wind of such mass movements as the Guards Units Movement and the movement to become crack shots, gave strong impetus to establishing military discipline, and personally organized and guided actual war-like drills and training competitions unprecedented in the history of building army. Thanks to the energetic leadership of Kim Jong Un, a revolutionary turnaround was effected in completing combat preparedness of the People's Army and its fighting strength was enhanced remarkably.

Today, the KPA is replete with inviolable faith that absolute trust in the Party and the idea and determination of the Party Central Committee are just science, truth and victory. It is the special quality peculiar to the KPA to share ideas and intentions and keep pace with the Party Central Committee regarding

devotedly safeguarding the Party Central Committee as pure conscience and obligation.

The KPA's tremendous power is attributed to the fact that the entire army is fully charged with the

revolutionary ideas of the Party Central Committee and rallied firmly around it, rather than to its possession of sophisticated military hardware terrifying the hostile forces.

The KPA, which is making

a dash along the course indicated by the Party, is a powerful military guarantee which ensures peace and security in the Korean peninsula and region and steadily advances the Korean revolution.



AN YONG CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Photos show the military parade in celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Workers' Party Korea in October 2020.

First substantial outcome of 50 000-flat construction project

By Ri Sung Ik PT

A new magnificent street appeared on the eastern gateway to the capital city of Pyongyang.

The eastern part of Pyongyang has undergone a remarkable change in its looks with the completion of Songhwa Street. Along the broad avenue there stand a modern skyscraper, high-rise apartment blocks, educational, healthcare and welfare facilities and such structures as an elevated bridge and decorations, which go marvellously well with each other by virtue of the application of plastic arts and artistic techniques and the ensuring of reciprocity, connectivity and practicality.

The Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea held last year decided to build 50 000 flats in Pyongyang for the coming five years and the construction of 10 000 flats in the Songsin and Songhwa area was the first

step towards the goal.

Positive measures were taken to speed up the construction project at major Party and state meetings including the Second Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Party Central Committee and the Fifth Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly.

It was a huge project in terms of architectural style, content and scale as it required building in a matter of a year more than 160 blocks of skyscraper, high-rise apartment houses, public buildings and welfare service facilities with a total floor space of well over 1 million square metres in 56 hectares of land.

Burning loyalty and patriotic ardour of all the builders to fulfil the promise the Party Central Committee made to the people in the name of the Party Congress gave birth to a new amazing construction speed from the beginning.

They increased the speed

and improved the quality of construction by employing new methods totally different from existing ones to build a large architectural group in such a short time.

The people's happy homes built along the street heralding a new period of development in capital city construction fully demonstrated the stamina of the WPK and the Koreans achieving socialist civilization and rejuvenation by their own strength, wisdom and exertion.

With the leading skyscraper as the axis, high-rise apartment buildings with various graceful curves and distinctive service buildings blend in well with each other artistically as they are welded together nicely in terms of architectural aesthetics. The owners of the new houses with ideal living conditions are all ordinary working people and received them grats.

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People's ideal street, flourishing socialist living space in the era of the Workers' Party



Labour innovators and persons of merit in Pyongyang move into new luxury houses in Kyongru-dong.

Owners of new houses express their excitement

Ri Myong Sun, weaver of the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill who moved into apartment block No. 13-2 of Kyongru-dong, said that it was a civil duty she assumed for the socialist country to have continuously conducted the multi-loom tending movement for over 20 years, adding that the reality of a weaver becoming the owner of a deluxe house was a socialist legend that could be created only in the DPRK.

"It seems as if it were yesterday that we were surprised at the news about the construction of residential quarters for the people, not any important structure of national significance, on the banks of the Pothong River, a place where there was the residence of President Kim Il Sung," Kim Thae Bong said.

"As workers like me received the top-class, splendid dwelling houses at the sacred site, I was overwhelmed by such a blessing that can be found nowhere else in the world," said Ho Myong Gum.

"Love of General Secretary Kim Jong Un" who brought me happiness in the twilight of my life, is so overwhelming and undeserved for me," said Pang Sok Un, who retired from his long acting career and is now nearly eighty. "I only want to devote my remaining life to repaying the favour shown by the General Secretary who called me to the office building of the Party Central Committee together with labour innovators and persons of merit, who participated in the celebrations of the 73rd founding anniversary of the DPRK last year, and by the Party that gave me a palatial house this time."

Gem terraces along Pothong riverside

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

A new architectural spectacle has been created on the banks of the Pothong River in the capital city of Pyongyang.

It is just the Pothong Riverside Terraced Houses District.

The site was originally occupied by Residence No. 5 in which President Kim Il Sung resided for a long period before the then Kumsusan Assembly Hall was constructed.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un thought out a plan for constructing a terraced residential district along the Pothong River, helped designers broaden their horizons and told them the orientations and ways to produce a perfect design for the district.

As a result, a miniature of the residential area was made in a scientific and unique way so that the district could preserve its looks as befits an architectural group by properly combining low-storey and multi-storey apartment houses, buildings and nature could be fused into one and the living and ecological spaces could provide the greatest possible convenience and hygienic and cultured environment.

On his inspection tour of the riverside area near the Pothong Gate on March 25 2021 Kim Jong Un unveiled the plan for developing Juche-oriented architecture onto a new high stage by creating a model of terraced house construction.

He visited the construction site again on March 31 and encouraged the builders, calling on them to improve the quality of construction so as to distinctively promote the special features

of terraced houses according to their types and elevation elements and thus demonstrate the modernity of the capital city, the features of developing Juche-oriented architecture, the inexhaustible ideological and spiritual strength and the potentiality of the self-supporting economy.

The builders had waged a 24/7 struggle since they broke the ground.

During his several rounds of visit to the construction site afterwards, he taught that the construction of terraced apartment houses is a good way to solve the housing problem under the actual situation of the country the most part of which is mountainous and which needs to construct dwelling houses on a large scale and expressed satisfaction over the fact that the construction project would set a new example for efficiently using slopes and mountainous areas in housing construction and help enhance the level of modernization and civilization of the capital and local cities.

He also personally named the administrative division of the residential district "Kyongru-dong" signifying the most wonderful place in Pyongyang and a beautiful gem terrace.

Thanks to his energetic guidance, a new style of luxury residential district rose on the banks of the Pothong River to provide nice dwelling houses to exemplary labour innovators, meritorious persons, scientists and other working people who devotedly worked to lighten the heavy burden on the country even a bit, while subordinating their family affairs to state affairs all their life.



The 80-storey tower consists of some 900 flats with a total floor space of over 160 000 square metres.



Skyscraper, symbol of Songhwa Street

By To Kyong Chol PT

Songhwa Street has appeared in Pyongyang in the wake of Ryomyong and Mirae Scientists streets.

At the entrance to the street there stands an 80-storey skyscraper as a symbol of the street visually proving a great golden age of construction which amazes all.

The building consists of some 900 flats with a total floor space of over 160 000 square metres.

The tower, which adds to the hope for more beautiful future, is the reflection of love for the people of the Workers' Party Korea which regards it as its mode of existence

to serve the people devotedly and the fruit of the ardent loyalty and devotion of the builders who regard it as their duty to make sure that the promise the Party Central Committee made to the people in the name of the dignified Party Congress is kept most thoroughly and perfectly.

Despite the shortage of everything and manifold trials and hardships, the WPK set it as an affair of fulfilling its greatest desire to solve the housing problem for the people. The lofty intention of the Party inspired the builders to create a new legend of construction.

Amid a fierce competition,

builders tasked with building the 80-storey building found themselves in difficulty from the outset of the project as the natural bedrock was situated deep underground. But since they regard the Party's decision precisely as practice, they dug and dug until they finally found the bedrock and firmly fixed the foundation of the building on it to push ahead with the vast project, thus finishing the construction of its framework in a short period of time.

It was a miracle indeed.

Such apartment houses built that way are now ringing with the happy laughter of the people who have moved into them.

We live in the home filled with all blessings

When blasting resounded in Pyongyang to signal the start of construction of 10 000 flats a year ago, I believed that a new street would be built again for the good of the people.

And yet, one year later I could not believe my eyes as I saw the eye-opening reality.

Seeing the wonderful scene of the new street, I think that if there were a miracle in the world, this might be just the one.

It is really unbelievable that ordinary people like me can receive a new, good houses on the splendid street free of charge.

I think the most powerful country is the one where the state holds the people in high esteem as God and the people turn out like one in hearty response to the call of the state to perform miracles.

All our four siblings received new houses in recent ten years.

My eldest brother moved into Changjon Street, the second one received a home on Mirae Scientists Street, the elder sister settled Ryomyong Street and I have received a new home here on Songhwa Street.

The country provided gratis such magnificent houses to ordinary people. Words fail me to express my feeling of thanks.

Not only my house but all others in the street are filled with grateful feelings.

After receiving such a good house, my mind has been filled with just the resolve to work hard racing against time to repay the great favour shown by the country.

I could not take my eyes off the overhead bridge when I came to the street.

The bridge was built in a practical way on the principle of preferentially ensuring the convenience of people to blend in well with different kinds of welfare service facilities.

The petal-shaped 80-storey building, rising high representing fireworks in the air, is really smart and majestic.

As I look at every corner of the street, I keenly realize what it means to preserve the Juche character, national identity, serve-the-people spirit and modernity.

I will devote my wisdom and passion to achieving rapid development of the people-first architecture by upholding the plan of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Pak Song, lecturer of Pyongyang College of Urban Management

Jo Sun Sil, worker at the Pyongyang Footwear Factory

Jong Hui Song, worker at the Pyongyang Condiments Factory

Production picks up in various economic sectors

By Yun Kyong Il PT

Various sectors of the national economy are set to implement their daily, 10-day and monthly production plans without fail by upholding the decisions of the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers’ Party of Korea.

The Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex is operating the oxygen blast furnace at full capacity to normalize the daily pig iron production. Employees of the complex are keen on introducing rational working methods and advanced technology to improve the quality of iron and steel products, while pushing forward with the project for mechanizing the tapping operation.

The complex concentrates on the production of iron and steel products needed for various economic sectors

and major construction projects by ensuring the normal operation of furnaces and widely applying advanced technologies. At the same time, it pays attention to carefully organizing the check-up and repair of the 100-ton capacity UHP electric arc furnace and introducing a facility for heating ladle by using gas. It also steps up the iron production capacity expansion project, while pushing the current production.

The Hungnam Fertilizer Complex works hard to increase production.

Considerable progress has been made in solving technical problems arising in operating three centrifugal circulating compressors at the same time in collaboration with related units as part of its effort to increase the ammonia synthesizing capacity. It also improves

the performance of the newly added rotating drying furnace to ensure the supply of anthracite coal needed for the operation of gas generators, while operating three gas generators simultaneously, and increases gas output per hour by establishing a rational operating method.

The Pukchang Thermal Power Complex has taken technical measures to boost combustion efficiency of the pulverization system in order to increase power output per generator and the Pyongyang, Suncheon and other thermal

power stations overfulfil daily production plans by positively introducing technical innovation plans. Hydropower stations

across the country regularly check the amount of water secured and the state of hydraulic structures, strictly conduct check-ups

and repair of generating equipment and operate them at full capacity to produce more electricity than planned.



RODONG SINMUN

Iron and steel production picks up at the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex.

By pushing land management as all-people undertaking

By Kim Kum Myong PT

Pukchang County of South Phyongan Province has undergone a facelift by pressing on with land administration as an all-people undertaking.

“Our county has steadily improved its appearance by mobilizing the entire population as well as the officials in charge of land management during the spring and autumn general mobilization periods for land management every year,” said Ri Yong Nam, vice-chairman of the county people’s committee.

According to him, the county set an ambitious goal of sprucing up the county town to match the provincial capitals and has worked hard to attain it.

To this end, projects were undertaken to pave all roads in the county town, refashion the exterior designs of institutions, industrial establishments and houses to meet the modern aesthetic tastes and upgrade the hall of culture, schools and cultural and public service facilities.

As a result, all roads in the county town were paved or renovated and the hall of culture and cultural and public service facilities wonderfully reconstructed.

And cosy modern parks were built across the county town.

All roads connected to other county areas and regions were also paved, safety protection and retaining walls built, technical conditions of roads improved by adding ditches and culverts to them

to strictly ensure their safety and evenness and flowering shrubs and trees of good species planted along the roadsides to improve the modernity of roads.

Forests cover 80 percent of the total area of the county and it has many rivers and streams including the Taedong and Piryu rivers. Therefore, it is an important matter for it to plant forests and improve rivers and streams.

Ri said that the county has made marked achievements as it directed constant efforts to turning all mountains into “gold and treasure mountains” and preventing natural disasters by improving the rivers and streams.

Now, it produces millions of saplings every year by

putting their production on a scientific, industrial and intensive basis and increasing the production capacity of tree nurseries including its parent nursery, tree nurseries of institutions, industrial establishments and cooperative farms and those between forests of all mountain workteams.

Trees are planted as an all-people campaign during the spring and autumn tree-planting periods every year and factories and enterprises are given clear assignments to encourage all people to play the master’s role in forest planting and protection.

The county also pays attention to widely planting wild fruit trees and trees of good species and high

economic value in an effort to turn the mountains into “gold and treasure ones” which would actually be useful and helpful in improving the people’s living standards and boosting the economic growth of the county.

Afforestation for erosion control and water conservancy are also stepped up including the dredging of rivers and building of embankments to bring dozens of hectares of land under the plough, while protecting land and preventing natural disasters.

The county changes its appearance with each passing day thanks to the untiring efforts of its population to develop their native place into a better place to live in by their hands.



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A newly-built embankment in Pukchang County, South Phyongan Province.

Streets, villages given a facelift

By Chae Hyang Ok PT

Dynamic efforts are being made to better the appearance of streets and villages in North Hamgyong Province during the spring general mobilization period for land administration.

All cities and counties in the province are planting and growing more trees in streets and villages, creating beautiful landscape in good harmony with surrounding natural scenery and readjusting sections in a planned way.

According to the provincial plan, they landscape city and county seats and plant more good species of roadside trees of high ornamental value,

adding beauty to the scenery of streets and villages.

Cities and counties make sure that the rooting rate of planted trees is raised by securing sufficient saplings that suit their regional characteristics, giving precedence to grove designing and intensifying technological guidance over tree planting.

Having turned out as one with the ardent love for native land, the working people in the province planted good species of trees in large numbers in the seats of cities and counties and roads, giving a facelift to their regions.

The province is also pushing the work of maintaining streets and villages in a cultured and sanitary manner.

Chongjin City has mobilized residents to step up the painting of building walls according to the plans of general mobilization for land administration. With a determination to give a facelift to streets and villages they live, they carefully work to completely remove the traces of winter, including the painting of walls and ditch clearing.

Hoeryong and other cities and counties have also made progress in sprucing up their areas.

Meanwhile, the province makes the best use of elements to create new lawns and enhance natural beauty.

Thanks to the devotion of local people, the appearance of the province changes for the better day after day.

More efficient machines developed

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

Lecturers and researchers of the building machine engineering faculty of Pyongyang University of Architecture design, manufacture and introduce efficient machines needed for different sectors of the national economy.

Last year alone they designed over a dozen efficient machines including a mobile vibro-pressure small hollow block moulding machine highly rated at the national sci-tech presentation in the construction sector and a high-speed revolving blade mixer conducive to ensuring

speed and high quality in producing quick-ignition coal briquette.

The static load compression tester they designed and manufactured to estimate the quality of pile foundation is being used effectively in construction units as it can scientifically guarantee the foundation of high building even on bed of sand.

Not long ago they completed and introduced an iron-plate sieve making machine capable of raising the productivity and quality of sieve-bottom which is widely used as essential element in selecting materials by size

in different sectors of the national economy, including building materials, food and paper industries.

They designed the machine to markedly raise the quality of its products and productivity, for example, to ensure continuity, homogeneity and smoothness in punching and processing holes, while saving much more cost and labour than before.

“Today when monumental structures that show the level of socialist civilization are built in succession and a golden age of construction is unfolded, it is a very important issue



PAK KWANG HUN/THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Lecturers brainstorm ideas on a new transmission gear at the building machine engineering department of the faculty of building machine engineering of Pyongyang University of Architecture.

in the machine-building industry to raise the quality of products and maximize productivity by positively

inventing and introducing efficient building equipment, apparatuses and implements. To carry out

this task of the times is just the duty of scientists like us,” said lecturer and lead developer Kim Jong Sam.

University develops new hard alloy

The new method has increased drilling length 1.6 times, lifespan of tools nearly two times

By Kim Il Jin PT

The Materials Engineering Faculty of Pyongyang University of Mechanical Engineering devised a method of manufacturing hard alloy for rock drills with better technical specifications than the previous ones.

Tools for coal and other mines in general need to have a lower abrasion rate and greater bending strength. Such requirements are fulfilled by hard alloys.

For this reason, producing good-quality hard alloys

is of crucial significance in increasing cutting speed in the machine-building industry and tunnelling speed in the mining industry.

Lecturers and researchers of the university promoted the heterogeneity of the structure of hard alloy and increased the strength of bonding metal by relying on locally available raw materials to develop the highly efficient hard alloy for drilling rock.

The tools made of it have remarkably higher specifications, including

hardness and bending strength, and a far longer lifespan than the previous ones.

According to one of lead developers Paek Yong Ryong, PhD and associate professor, the new method increased the drilling length 1.6 times and the lifespan of tools nearly two times, while using less cobalt, as compared to the previous method.

The rock drills made by applying the technique are in wide use in the mining industry as they are popular with users.



AN YONG CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

A lecturer and researcher discuss how to improve the quality of hard alloy at the materials engineering faculty of Pyongyang University of Mechanical Engineering.

Water disinfectants

using silver ions developed

By Chae Hyang Ok PT

The Tachung new technology exchange centre has developed water disinfectants based on special features of silver ion.

They are silver complex salt water disinfectant and citric acid silver complex water disinfectant.

According to lead developer Ri Su Yang, silver ions generally have a strong antibacterial property and when they are made into a complex, they can be easily absorbed into the body without doing any harm and are stable at the normal temperature.

Especially, they have inhibitory effects against hundreds of kinds of bacteria.

The new water disinfectants have such a long shelf life that they are quite handy on journeys or for prolonged works.

The exchange centre brought out the silver complex

salt water disinfectant as their first product.

A natural broad-spectrum bactericide, this product enjoyed considerable popularity among customers as soon as it was on the market.

It is said that the disinfectant does not generate any carcinogenic substances and the disinfection effect lasts for a long time.

You can just put five drops of the disinfectant into one liter of ordinary water or 20 drops for unknown water, stir it and drink it after 10 minutes.

Since it has good antiviral, antioxidant and blood-purifying effects, it can cure inflammatory, bacillary, purulent and other common diseases, making it a well-liked household medicine.

“I had a bad case of acne which wouldn’t disappear even though I tried every possible means, but as I applied the disinfectant before going to sleep every

night, they were completely gone after one week,” said Kim Ok Hui, a customer from Central District, Pyongyang.

As it turned out to be highly efficacious in the treatment of various diseases including colitis, food poisoning, cold, empyema, hemorrhoids and skin, spinal and eye diseases, its application range has been actively broadened by users.

Later, the exchange centre developed the citric acid silver complex water disinfectant by improving its first product.

The new product made by complexing silver ion and citric acid adds refreshing taste to water.

It can be used in the same way as the silver complex salt water disinfectant.

The water disinfectants are also effective in the sterilization of fruits, vegetables and utensils, the storage of kimchi and the treatment of scours.

Company takes responsible care of employees

Sincere and genuine affections of company officials encourage employees to make innovations.



JON KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES
Officials of the Pyongyang Construction Company visit the house of its employee to look after his family life.

By **Jong Chol PT**

The Pyongyang Construction Company is a competent and successful business well known for carrying out large construction projects. Employees of the company say that they could have been successful not because they had lots of materials and good conditions, but because the company officials encouraged them to make innovations with

their sincere and genuine affections. The officials possess warm humanity as their personal trait. They are looking after the living conditions of many employees with motherly care. One day in August last year, the foundation of a single-floored house of Ra Kwang Chol, a worker of the company, was submerged in a heavy rain and one of the rooms collapsed.

When Ra was at a loss for what to do, officials of the company were the first to come running to his house. They offered him to pull down the old house and build a new one and provided necessary building materials. "Bad luck often brings good luck, as a Korean proverb goes. I felt like I was dreaming when a larger house with new furniture was given to me. I will always remember the sincerity of the company officials," said Ra.

The company takes constant care of another worker who lives with a younger brother without parents. When some workers go to work at a distant place for months, the officials care for their living conditions with parental affections lest they should have any inconvenience. "It is our duty responsibility," company officials would say when employees express their gratitude.

With kindred affection

By **Yun Ki Song PT**

Ri Uk Je, a war veteran aged 88, has no blood relations. However, she lives enjoying the affection that is deeper than that shown by blood relatives. Therefore, she always says that humans live as they cry and laugh with affection. A war veteran, she has lived enjoying state benefits and the respect of people. Shortly ago, she came to have more "relatives" like granddaughters.

She was hospitalized at the Kim Man Yu Hospital for senile infirmity in November last year. One day, a young woman named Ri Sol A entered the ward she was in. The teacher of Kumsong Middle School No. 2 was on a visit to her sick mother who had just been hospitalized. As she called on her mother to attend to her almost every day, Sol A familiarized herself with the treatment process of patients in the ward and came to realize that the old woman beside her mother was a war veteran and had no children. "I felt sympathy for the

granny who dedicated her prime of youth for the country, as I saw her lying on the bed alone," recalled Ri Sol A. From that day, Sol A showed sincere devotion to the nursing of the two patients. She prepared appetizing foods for the war veteran and looked after her so that she could sleep soundly. Whenever the old woman

declined her favour since she had her mother to take care of while being busy with education work, Sol A continued to look after her more cheerfully. Looking at Sol A, she and all other inmates were deeply moved. Saying that her sincerity surpassed kindred affection, inpatients of the ward joined Sol A in tending the war veteran.

Other teachers of Kumsong Middle School No. 2 also came to the assistance of the war veteran. She could finally leave the hospital thanks to the sincerity of those who dedicated true hearts to her for over 70 days. At present, teachers of the school as well as Sol A, who has forged a close bond with her, often visit the war veteran's home.



HONG KWANG NAM / THE PYONGYANG TIMES
Ri Sol A (third from left) and teachers at Kumsong Middle School No. 2 visit the home of Ri Uk Je.



Yun Jong Hui, an honoured disabled soldier.

'I am a citizen before being honoured disabled soldier'

“

A day of worthwhile life is better than 100 days of purposeless existence,”

Yun Jong Hui, a disabled woman

By **Chae Myong Rim PT**

Yun Jong Hui, living in neighbourhood unit No. 33 of Thongilgori-dong No. 2, Rangnang District, Pyongyang, was diagnosed with life-threatening diseases when she was unexpectedly injured on a military mission some 20 years ago. At the time, she was only 20 years old.

Back home as a special-class honoured disabled soldier, she worried about herself constantly as she could not even move her body without other's help. "What can I do with this frail health," she thought. "At that time, my father told me that the greatest misery for a person is not to be crippled for life, but to give up one's life, hoping that I would make a right decision this time, too," recalled Yun.

Born as the eldest child of the family, Yun did not apply to university she had so much desired to go when she finished the middle school, but volunteered for military service in March 1993 when the order of the Supreme Commander was issued to the whole country, all the people and the entire army to enter into a semi-war state.

Her parents would positively support the decisions of their eldest daughter who gives precedence to her civic duty of devoted service for the country. Yun reproached herself for having been feeble-minded even for a short time and collected herself. After hearing from her father that an artistic motivational team of disabled soldiers was active in the district, she joined it without hesitation.

On May 20 1996 when she left for the Rangnang Cooperative Farm, Rangnang District, where rice-transplanting was in full swing, for artistic motivational activities for

the first time, she wrote on the first page of her thick record book:

"A day of worthwhile life is better than 100 days of purposeless existence. I will lead an honourable life, working as a loom and turbine if necessary."

Afterwards she took an active part in such activities to inspire the workers and builders to perform feats. Whenever she received bouquets from them, she felt proud of her life.

"Nobody will blame her even if she lives a comfortable life receiving medical treatment as a special-class honoured disabled soldier. But she has continued to conduct artistic motivational activities for years," said Ri Kyong Bok, head of the neighbourhood unit.

The country highly appreciated her noble sense of patriotism.

Yun received thanks from Chairman Kim Jong Il several times and high state commendations including Order of the National Flag 1st Class. And each time, she hardened her determination to continuously follow the road to return the favour bestowed by them.

Busy as she was with artistic motivational activities, she graduated from the online course of Kim Hyong Jik University of Education with flying colours and wrote many literary works to express her gratitude to the socialist country that values honoured disabled soldiers like her and encourages them to live a worthwhile life.

Last year, the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un saw her letter expressing her resolve to work for the country to the last, along with the collection of her literary works.

"I am a citizen of this country before being an honoured disabled soldier," she says whenever people admire her resilient effort.

Grandsons of legendary magician CARVE A NICHE FOR THEMSELVES



Kim Kwang Song.

Kim Ju Song.

By **Ri Myong Jun PT**

Although new magic pieces are constantly created, viewers show keen interest in Kim Ju Song's and Kim Kwang Song's magic art. The performers of the National Circus produced magic pieces in a few years, including a magic "Walking on water wearing a suit and leather shoes" and illusionary jugglery "Walking on the air putting one hand on the roof of a double-decker bus" and a functional magic that draws out large and small cards one after another.

Though they have only 4-5 years of creative careers, every magic piece they unveiled is drawing the attention of experts as they are fresh and original. Both of them are grandsons of Kim Thack Song who played an important role in the development of magic art in the DPRK in the 1970s, when the period of

the renaissance in the 20th century was ushered in under the leadership of Chairman Kim Jong Il.

The magic performance, which had seemed to be a show of mere trick of hands and cheating, turned out at that time to be a genre of art developing the people's creative faculties and giving spur to their intellectual development.

Kim Thack Song produced over 200 magic pieces including "Floral basket", "Bumper harvest of apple" and "Mass-production of silk".

A winner of Kim Il Sung Prize, DPRK Labour Hero and People's Artist, he participated in many international magic festivals and won the admiration of lots of experts and audiences.

Under his strict education, the eldest son, Kim Chol, has grown into a functional magic performer and the second son, Kim Kwang Chol, has emerged

as a magic performer who has special skill in interactive magic.

The brothers worked hard to ensure that the magic would be an art reflecting the true and beautiful life of human beings.

In the course of that, they produced and performed many pieces to win the applause of the audience and gain a reputation on international magic stages.

They all won Kim Il Sung Prize and the title of People's Artists.

By carrying on their family tradition, Kim Ju Song (son of Kim Chol) and Kim Kwang Song (son of Kim Kwang Chol) have now become magic performers.

They assert magic should be developed by relying on modern science and technology, and arouse deep interest of spectators by staging a variety of magic pieces according to places

and environment while touring different construction sites, cooperative farms and pleasure grounds where people's laughter ring out.

The spectators lavish praise on them, calling them "performers of miracle", as they see a blindfolded performer treading on broken glass

and picking out with toes a card selected by a spectator and the other one drawing out big and small cards in succession.

"The real performers of miracle are just the masses of the people. We only reflect the reality on a show," Ju Song and Kwang Song said.



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES
Kim Chol (middle), Kim Ju Song (left) and Kim Kwang Song (right) hold a discussion about a new magic piece.

Ri Jin Ho's family grows over 400 plants

Gardeners' family

By **Ri Sang Il PT**

Ri Jin Ho's family living in Kosan-dong of Taesong District, Pyongyang, is called gardeners' family by neighbours.

This is because Ri and his wife grow more than 400 plants in their garden that is not so large.

"Ri Jin Ho's garden is like a botanical garden or park as there are growing various attractive plants, including roses and other flowering shrubs and scores of fruit trees, in the garden. The garden also has a small pond, animal sculptures and a resting place," said Kim Hye Yong, head of the neighbourhood unit.

According to her, a lot of people visit the house to obtain seedlings of

flowering plants or fruit trees or see its garden with an intention to model theirs on it.

As the leader of the pot plant trial workteam under the Academy of Forestry, Ri has lived concerning himself with flowers and trees since his childhood, she added.

"My childhood memories of my father are about his always tending flowers and trees with loving care. As he made efforts to tend them at home and in his workplace, he always told us that a person must lead a cultured life and make emotion permeate it," said Ri.

As he tended flowers and trees with his father in his childhood, he enhanced his knowledge of gardening gradually

and broadened experience. And the knowledge and experience became richer after he began to work at the Academy of Forestry.

He wanted to grow flowers and trees at his house.

The number of fruit trees and ornamental plants growing in his garden increased, and the back yard has a cold house and a greenhouse with conditions for growing hundreds of pot plants.

He also trimmed well a variety of trees which have long grown in the yard to add to its scenery.

"It is my husband's desire to landscape streets of the capital city and mountains and fields of the country like the green scenery of our house," said his wife Kim Kyong Sun.

She went on to say she

took pride in living with him as she saw him putting his heart and soul into tending plants.

As she helped her husband who tended plants early in the morning and would study them in his spare time, she became an amateur gardener unawares.

They now imbue their three-year-old son with the spirit of loving flowers and trees from childhood, and render unstinting assistance to people who visit their home to learn gardening techniques and experience of growing pot plants from them.

They are wont to tell the people that knowledge of science alone is not enough to tend plants and that sincerity is also necessary for tending them.



JONG JI SONG / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Ri Jin Ho's wife and three-year-old son trim a pot plant at home.

‘Law on maintenance of public order’ basis of Japan’s colonial fascist laws

By Song Jong Ho PT

The Japanese imperialists, who had been dead set on continental aggression in the past century, committed numerous human rights abuses by fabricating unethical laws at random.

Particularly, it criminalized great numbers of Korean people by wielding such draconian laws to brutally punish and slaughter them.

Saying that the Koreans should either obey the Japanese law or die, the Japanese imperialists persistently clung to the fabrication of various laws. The “law on maintenance of public order” is a typical example.

It was a fascist law which the Japanese imperialists cooked up and proclaimed in April 1925 to oppress leftist forces opposing the imperialist ruling system in their country. In May that year, the coverage and object of the law were expanded to

colonial countries and regions by a royal ordinance of Japan on enforcing the law in Korea, Taiwan and Sakhalin.

It mercilessly trampled down upon the elementary rights to existence of peoples of other countries.

Lots of the Korean people were jailed under the law which was designed to brand and punish various acts aimed at reforming the state system or denying the private ownership system and all activities of opposing the colonial fascist ruling system.

The number of arrests reached nearly 130 000 in 1922, but it increased to 190 000 in 1925, when the draconian law was concocted, and more than 260 000 in 1926.

According to conservative information released by the Japanese imperialists, the cases of apprehension numbered over 875 000 and the number of the Koreans who were arrested reached millions between 1924

and 1929.

Under the law, the Japanese imperialists shot peaceful demonstrators who marched shouting “Long live the independence of Korea!” to kill and injure more than 160 in Kyongsong (Seoul) in 1926 and rushed to villages of the Pochon area in 1929 to set fire to houses of mountain-side tillers and sweep off them with guns and swords or burn them to death on the pretext that they reclaimed land without approval.

In 1928, the Japanese imperialists revised the law in favour of their fascist colonial rule and it was amended for the worse in 1941 before the Pacific war. The law constituted the basis of fabricating and enforcing different colonial fascist laws and the “law on protecting and observing the Korean political offenders”, the “law on preventing and

detaining the Korean political offenders” and other special criminal laws were cooked up on the basis of the law. The Japanese imperialists brutally cracked down on not only the anti-Japanese national liberation struggle of the Korean people under the law but also the progressive ideological movement and even refusal of visiting Japanese shrines and bowing in the direction of the Japanese imperial palace. As seen above, the law was a political tool for thoroughly liquidating the nationality of the Korean people and murdering them in a legitimate way. Nevertheless, the current Japanese authorities are trying to whitewash their aggressive past without hesitation while justifying their past wrongdoings and approving distorted history textbooks. The acts of the Japanese authorities are arousing the great rage of the Korean people and Japan will have to pay dearly for it.

Land management is undertaken as nationwide campaign



Choe Hung Gwon
Deputy department director of the Ministry of Land and Environment Protection

In January units of the land and environment protection sector in all parts of the country held meetings to pledge to thoroughly implement the decisions made at the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers’ Party of Korea.

The meetings expressed the determination to provide the people with more civilized living conditions and environment by making strenuous efforts to turn all mountains of the country into green ones, make the relevant local areas free from damage by any natural disaster, improve rivers and streams and ensure the safety and modernity of roads.

Now land and environment protection is under way as a nationwide and all-people affair in the country.

In the last ten years alone a new history of “gold mountain”,

“golden field” and “gold sea” was made through the vigorous efforts to protect the resources and environment of the country.

This shows that nature can be harnessed no matter how much capricious it may be and that any county can steadily increase its ability to develop by itself.

We need more and more sources of raw materials as the economy of the country develops and the people’s living standards improve.

We can steadily push ahead with the building of a prosperous country by relying on our own only when we push the protection of land and environment, which is aimed at turning our country into beautiful paradise good to live in, substantially, persistently and in a far-sighted way.

During the period of the five-year plan at least, we should make a bold plan to mostly finish

the improvement of rivers and streams, the projects for hillside and streamlet erosion control, embankment repair and coastal dike construction and start the normal management of them and resolutely carry out the plan. Only then will it be possible to protect the lives and properties of the people and speed up the building of a prosperous nation by relying on our growing resources regardless of any raging element.

This year the Ministry of Land and Environment Protection has decided to set it as the core of land management to steadily plant forests, improve rivers and streams and plant trees for erosion control throughout the year, and to push ahead with it.

To that end the ministry explored the ways to accelerate the production of wild fruit tree saplings and tree planting and has put in effort to make sure

that the vast project for the improvement of rivers and streams is under way as required by the relevant design from early the year.

Measures are being taken to provide relevant areas with excavators so that land management can be pushed, and the work is scrupulously organized to ensure the quality of the projects for hillside and streamlet erosion control. Practical measures have been taken and relevant executive plans drawn up for the projects on the basis of comprehensive resurvey of the actual conditions of all mountains and rivers across the country.

Besides, detailed plans were worked out to accelerate the construction and technical reconstruction of roads and the construction and repair of bridges and protect and improve ecological environment, and efforts are being made to implement them.

BYWORD

The Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers’ Party of Korea, which clarified the orientation of this year’s work, called for putting the country’s agriculture on a definite upward stage and opening up a new great era of effecting

drastic development of the Korean-style socialist countryside by pushing the rural development under the uplifted slogan of “For the new victory of socialist rural construction!”

The WPK’s goal for socialist rural construction is to model all the rural communities

across the country on the Juche idea and make them materially affluent.

To achieve the goal, primary attention is being paid to raising the level of ideological awareness of agricultural workers and projects are under way to make a rapid

development of agricultural workforce and bring about a fundamental change in the living environment in the countryside. And stages and goals have been set on a scientific basis and a purposeful struggle is designed and waged under year-on-year plan.

OPINION

What is ‘opinion hearing’ aimed at?

PROVIDED TO
THE PYONGYANG TIMES

According to news reports, the Japanese authorities recently organized a “hearing of opinions of erudite” with regard to stipulating the possession of the enemy base attack capability in the national security strategy.

They often hold opinion hearings of the so-called “erudite” mainly on such sensitive issues that may arouse opposition at home and abroad. On the basis of their results, they decide on as their policies such sensitive issues as of expressing their stand on the past history and expanding conditions for the activities of the “Self-Defense Forces”. In a word, hearing of opinions of the “erudite” is nothing but a farce to justify their making of criminal decisions under the cloak of universal social demand.

This time, they selected as “erudite” those who had been engaged in the diplomatic and military fields for a long time and the most crazed fanatics of militarists and held a hearing of their opinions on specifying the possession of enemy base attack capability in the national security strategy. It was as clear as day to what result it would lead. It is not accidental that the public is critical of the hearing, saying the “conclusion had already been drawn”.

It is needless to say why the Japanese authorities played such a farce as stealing a bell by covering their own ears. They aimed to mislead the public to believe that the decision on legalizing the preemptive attack on other countries is the public demand and lend validity and rationality to their moves to realize their wild ambition for overseas reinvasion. The recent opinion hearing indicates that it is only a matter of time before the possession of enemy base attack capability is stipulated in the national security strategy.

The Japanese authorities plan to decide on this issue at a cabinet ministers’ meeting slated to be held at the close of the year on the grounds of the opinion voiced at the recent hearing. It only proves that Japan’s attempt at legalizing its preemptive strike on other countries and start of aggressive war on the pretext of enemy base attack is imminent as a real threat.

In recent years Japan’s war expenditure has steadily grown, new war equipment continuously been developed and introduced and the scope of activities of the SDF expanded to space and cyberspace as well as overseas.

If the possession of enemy base attack capability is legalized in addition to them, it will open a direct course to the SDF for its overseas reinvasion.

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China strongly denounces military cooperation of ‘AUKUS’

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THE PYONGYANG TIMES

China is strongly denouncing the recent joint statement of the US-led “AUKUS” committing itself to cooperating in the development of hypersonic weapons and electronic warfare capability.

The spokesperson for the Chinese Foreign Ministry scathingly criticized the US, the UK and Australia for openly announcing that they will develop advanced military technology including that of hypersonic weapons, saying this will not only lead to increased danger of nuclear proliferation and deal a blow to the international nuclear non-proliferation system, but also escalate an arms race in

the Asia-Pacific region and disturb peace and stability in the region.

The Chinese representative to the United Nations expressed serious concern that the action of “AUKUS” might touch off such a situation as dispute in Ukraine in different parts of the world. He also sounded a note of warning that anyone who does not want to see such a situation should refrain from taking any action that might cause a crisis.

Chinese newspaper *Global Times* commented that if the cooperation between the US, the UK and Australia is put into effect, the missiles deployed in Australia will be aimed at China. It also emphasized that other countries will be able

to respect China only when China continues to build up its own strength and provides itself with more methods to ensure security, sovereignty and rights to development of the country, and that everything is impossible without strong defence capability.

The US is stepping up its preparedness for nuclear attack against China by deploying nuclear strategic submarines and nuclear strategic bombers in forward areas on Guam and test-launching hypersonic missiles, while claiming that its military preparedness for the Indo-Pacific region has never changed even in the wake of the Ukrainian crisis.

The US created a danger of nuclear proliferation in the world

by transferring to Australia the technology of building a nuclear submarine. It is expanding the scope of cooperation with “AUKUS” into the development of hypersonic weapons, raising the alarm of hypersonic missile and nuclear threats by China. Its real intention is to speed up the forming of an anti-China military bloc and gain a favourable foothold for world domination.

The US attempts to form a new military bloc and consolidate military cooperation with its allies will face stronger opposition, rejection and denunciation from the countries in the region as they are extremely dangerous acts of causing escalated tension in the Asian region.

INCREASING FRICTION BETWEEN RUSSIA AND JAPAN

By Om Ryoung PT

The long-standing territorial dispute between Russia and Japan is escalating these days.

The Japanese Foreign Ministry recently marked the “northern territories” as “inherent part of its territory” in its 2022 diplomatic blue book. It sparked a widespread discontent among the Russians resident on the Kuril Islands and the Russian government, resulting in a refusal of the

talks for concluding a peace treaty which were stepped up between the two countries.

In this regard, a member of the Japanese House of Councillors in late March said that unless the government held talks with Russia for concluding a peace treaty concerning the “northern territories”, Japan would fall deeper under the influence of the US and finally clash with Russia.

In actuality, the friction between the two nations is taking on a more serious aspect

as the days go by.

On March 21, the Russian Foreign Ministry issued a statement that Moscow would suspend talks with Tokyo on a peace treaty, and the Japanese government in retaliation took a measure on March 25 to newly add 25 persons to the list of targets for freezing of assets and put a ban on the export of goods to 81 organizations. Timed to coincide with Japan’s additional sanctions, Russia mobilized over 3 000 troops and hundreds of pieces of military equipment to stage large-

scale military exercises on the Kuril Islands.

A high-ranking official of the Russian defence ministry said the recent military exercises included some drills of the Russian anti-aircraft units to detect, identify and destroy enemy planes attempting to make an air raid.

Analysts comment that as Japan has set the territorial issue as a precondition for concluding a peace treaty, the bilateral relations would go from bad to worse.

Worst human rights violator in the world

By Choe Yong Nam PT

A recent issue of *The Guardian* reported that a prisoner in an overseas secret jail of the CIA had sustained serious mental and physical damage due to unethical tortures such as “dashing against wall” and “pouring iced water”.

The international community assert that the fact fully shows that the US is unqualified to censure other countries, talking about “championing of democracy and human rights”, and strongly demands that it immediately close down secret jails, thoroughly reflect on its

heinous crimes and punish those who committed such unethical cruelties according to the relevant law.

It has already been a known secret that barbarous tortures are committed in the Guantanamo prison camp and America’s secret jails across the world with the approval and connivance of the US administration and the CIA. This is more obviously proved by the aforesaid fact.

According to the recently published survey results, the US has set up secret jails called “black place” in at least 54 countries and regions and put 100 000 people, including

women and juveniles, there for the past 20-odd years.

It is said that US\$540 million has been appropriated for the operation of the Guantanamo camp alone every year.

The barbarous tortures committed in such living hells shocked the world.

Hangmen inflicted on the prisoners such cruel tortures as denying them sleep for 180 hours, causing them an agony by which they feel as if they had been drowned, rubbing the light of cigarettes against their ear holes, inserting dirty hoses into their mouths for forced feeding and administering electric

shock torture to sensitive parts of their bodies. Numerous prisoners thus underwent physical damage and finally turned into psychopaths.

Nevertheless, the US shamelessly uses the “problem of human rights” as an excuse for its interference in internal affairs of other countries and military attack upon them.

The US is a ringleader of human rights violation that has completely lost the right to talk about the rights.

Its criminal nature as the worst and most heinous violator and obliteror of human rights has been fully revealed.

Briefly

Russia

President refers to Arctic development

Russia held a consultative meeting with regard to the development of the Arctic region on April 13.

In the meeting President Vladimir Putin gave an instruction to positively launch a construction project for the development of the region this year.

What is important, he said, is to build a modern infrastructure in the Arctic seaway, implement the shipbuilding plan and ensure the domestic production of equipment needed for harbours and ships.

Saying that Russia regards the Arctic as a realm of dialogue, stability and constructive cooperation, he called on the government, the Russian Railways Company, Gazprom Company and other enterprises to concentrate efforts on the project.

He also stressed that they should push ahead with a series of vital plans while providing vessels involved in the transport of materials with preferential departure conditions and making active use of air transport.

Cuba

Anniv of declaration of socialist character of Cuban revolution commemorated

An event took place in Havana on April 16 in celebration of the 61st anniversary of the declaration of socialist character of the Cuban revolution.

Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel attended it.

In April 1961, Fidel Castro Ruz, leader of the Cuban revolution, declared that the Cuban revolution should follow the road of socialism as he mourned the martyrs who fell in the fight against invaders.

Recollecting that time, participants in the event expressed their resolve to live and work as the revolutionary people in future, too, as they did in the past and firmly safeguard their socialist homeland with great power.

Laos

Prime Minister calls for striving to overcome difficulties

On April 13, on the occasion of the Laotian New Year, Prime Minister Thongloun Sissoulith said that the spread of COVID-19 is badly affecting his country’s economic development and its people’s living standards and that recently they have faced many difficulties caused by an increase in the inflation rate.

Saying that the New Year would be a year of hope, he noted that they all should make strenuous efforts to overcome difficulties.

China

Satellite sent into orbit

On April 16, China launched an atmospheric environment monitoring and measuring satellite on a Long March-4C carrier rocket at the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Centre.

The satellite was put into its designated orbit.

COVID-19

Global health crisis keeps worsening

According to a foreign news report, 505 733 421 people were infected with the novel coronavirus, 6 227 215 died of the disease and 41 853 444 were getting treatment as of 24:00 on April 19.

Over 2 000 people died in a day.



Mangyong Hill

Mangyong Hill is situated in Mangyongdae District of Pyongyang and is 45 metres above sea level. It has been called thus since ancient times as it commands a bird's eye view of ten thousand beautiful

scenes of nature. At the southwest foot of the hill there stands President Kim Il Sung's old home at Mangyongdae. The hill is covered with evergreen pine forests, and various species of plants grow everywhere, including

light pink azaleas, Korean goldenbells, *Syringadilatata*, apricot and peach trees and ornamental flowering trees as well. Green woods and flowers appearing according to seasons are the major features of the spectacular

natural scenery of Mangyong Hill. Particularly, the hill looks like a piece of stunning picture in April when everything comes to life and various kinds of flowers are in full bloom. The clear blue Taedong

River flows past the foot of its eastern cliff and the Mangyongdae Pavilion on top of the hill commands a bird's-eye view of Turu and Konyu islets in the middle of the river, natural scenes of the Mangyongdae area and

the looks of urban areas of Pyongyang with magnificent structures. And on the hill there are revolutionary relics associated with the activities young Kim Il Sung conducted to cultivate indomitable will and high aim.



Taekwon-Do Holy House



By Kwon Hyo Song PT

The Taekwon-Do Holy House is adjacent to the Taekwon-Do Hall in Sports Village on Chongchun Street in Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang. It was built in the form of a traditional Korean-style house covered with a gabled red-tile roof on April 20, 2012. For the past ten years since then, it has informed

its local and foreign visitors of the history of Korean martial arts and that of the development of Taekwon-Do and served as a venue of demonstration performances and martial arts competitions sponsored by the International Taekwon-Do Federation (ITF) and for Taekwon-Do training. It covers a building area of 6 500 square metres with

a total floor space of 12 000 square metres. It has the Taekwon-Do history hall with three rooms dedicated to the history of Korean martial arts, the origination and development of Taekwon-Do and the history of the ITF, the Taekwon-Do scientific research institute, training grounds, a sci-tech learning space and a multipurpose hall.

At the holy house there took place various functions including the one to commemorate the 100th birthday of Choe Hong Hui, first president of the ITF. Over the past decade lots of visitors at home and from abroad listened to the explanation about the history of Korean martial arts and that of the development of Taekwon-Do, saw Taekwon-Do demonstration

performances and got training in the martial art. On display in the first room of the Taekwon-Do history hall are a portrait of Tangun, father of the Korean nation and founder of the nation's martial arts, books on martial arts compiled from the period of Koryo (918-1392) to that of the feudal Joseon dynasty (1392-1910) and historical data on famous martial artists, and the second room houses books and data on the noble love for the nation of President Kim Il Sung, Chairman Kim Jong Il and the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un who showed concern for the development of Taekwon-Do and books and data on the history of the martial art derived from the nation's traditional martial arts.

The third room has the data on the history of the ITF's development, its structure and its affiliated organizations in different continents, books related to Taekwon-Do and data on the Taekwon-Do players who exalted the honour of the DPRK, the home of the martial art, at the Taekwon-Do World Championships and other relevant international competitions. The room also houses data on Choe Hong Hui and Taekwon-Do masters in different countries in the world. At the holy house there took place the Mangyongdae Prize national martial arts championships in several events from April 8 to 18 in celebration of the Day of the Sun.



Historical materials on show at the Taekwon-Do history hall of the Taekwon-Do Holy House.

